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**GUATEMALA**

# **U.S. Suffers Delayed Libel**

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ANTI-AMERICAN groups from Castro's Cuba to Britain are hoping that the short memories of most people will let them get away with a new libel of our country.

Their latest propaganda states that the United States in 1954 crushed freedom fighters in Guatemala as ruthlessly as the Soviet Russians did in Hungary two years later. Let's look at the record.

The recent visit to Dallas of General C. P. Cabell, deputy director of our Central Intelligence Agency, recalls the part played by his agency at the time of the overthrow of the Arbenz Communist regime six years ago. The facts do not warrant any such comparison as is now being made by our enemies.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM established an American beachhead in Guatemala under President Jacobo Arbenz in 1950. He had formed a national-front government, including the local Communist Party, and Moscow-directed Reds quickly took control of the country.

Washington made no more moves to interfere with Guatemala's domestic affairs than we have in Castro's Cuba. But when it became clear that the Arbenz regime was readying aggressive moves against the internal affairs of its neighboring countries of Honduras and Nicaragua, Washington took notice.

On May 17, 1954, CIA Director Allen Dulles disclosed that a \$10,000,000 cargo, bound by ship from Communist Poland to Guatemala, was not the optical-laboratory equipment it was labeled. The shipment consisted of war-making materials, including 1,900 tons of munitions from Communist Czechoslovakia.

After this and other facts unearthed by CIA were laid before the National Security Council, the Defense Department was directed to fly military supplies to both Honduras and Nicaragua. This was a basic precaution in view of the threat to the security of the Panama Canal.

Living in exile in Honduras was a Guatemalan army officer, Col. Carlos Castillo Armas. He had formed an Army of Liberation to redeem his country from the Communists.

ON JUNE 17, he moved across the border at the head of 2,000 to 3,000 followers. After capturing three Guatemalan towns, he called upon Arbenz to surrender. He was opposed by Arbenz' army of 6,000, but no serious fighting resulted. Arbenz capitulated and Castillo Armas wound up as the new President.

Some American arms flown to Honduras probably fell into the hands of Arbenz' opponents. But not one United States soldier took part in his overthrow or fired on any Guatemalan. This compares with the tens of thousands of students and others mowed down in cold blood by Russian Soviet tanks and divisions in Hungary. The world still recoils in horror over Soviet brutality. It is nonsense to say that United States intervention in Guatemala was anything like that.